CITYNEWS

MAY 2005 FROM THE CITY OF VANCOUVER

FIRE HALL OPEN HOUSES

Drop by one of Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services' open houses this summer. Meet your local firefighters, learn what they do, and discuss fire and safety concerns. See how fire halls work, and enjoy refreshments, prize draws and demonstrations.

All open houses are from 1 to 3 pm.

Date	Firehall #
July 10	3, 5, 6
July 24	4, 7, 9
August 7	8, 10, 13
August 14	12, 14, 17
August 21	15, 18, 21
August 28	19, 20, 22

Check your telephone book blue pages, or call 604-665-6000 for the exact location of your local fire hall.

EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS

WHAT MAKES a city a good place to live? Location for one. In Vancouver, we're blessed with unsurpassed natural beauty coupled with an attractive cosmopolitan urban landscape and skyline.

Accessibility to City services, like parks, libraries, community centres, well-maintained streets, water and sewer services, and police and fire services also factor in to make Vancouver one of the most livable cities in the world.

The money collected from taxes and user fees, along with some other revenue sources, help pay for the services and basic city infrastructure that you rely on everyday.

When it comes to putting your tax dollars to work, the City of Vancouver ensures you get the best value for your money. We also make sure our decisions are in line with your priorities. In early 2005, an extensive public consultation process helped us determine your spending priorities. Seventeen Mayor's meetings were held, a telephone survey conducted, and a newsletter including a questionnaire was widely distributed to help us understand what you felt was important.

Results from the telephone survey indicate that nearly two-thirds of residents surveyed felt they received fairly good to very good value for City services. Eighty-six per cent of respondents said they would accept a two per cent tax increase, while

72 per cent would accept a four per cent tax increase. Priority service areas were public safety, social issues, and transportation.

In 2005, due to inflation, rising basic service costs, and new initiatives, overall budget expenditures have increased by five per cent. But the City has been able to offset this overall increase through operating efficiencies and new revenues made available from gaming, GST savings, and an increase in the share of traffic fines. Consequently, the overall property tax increase will be 2.99 per cent.

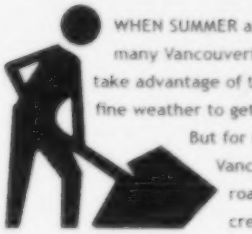
For the average household with an assessed property value of $508,000 in 2005, this will mean an increase of $37 on your property tax bill. This is in addition to an increase of $22 for water, sewer, and solid waste services. For the average strata unit with a value of $236,000 in 2005, the increase will be approximately $17 in 2005. For the average commercial/industrial property with a value of $1.114 million in 2005, the increase will be approximately $502 in 2005.

For residential homeowners, this means an increase of less than a dollar a week. For that, we'll be able to maintain the City's level of service, plus address safety concerns by hiring 50 new police officers; offer better service to our youngest residents by increasing children's literacy outreach programs; and ensure that we're not only one of the most livable cities but greenest cities by practicing and developing leading-edge sustainable initiatives. ■

2005 OPERATING BUDGET: $773 MILLION

DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES

SUMMER ROADWORK



WHEN SUMMER arrives, many Vancouverites take advantage of the fine weather to get away. But for City of Vancouver roadwork crews, summer signals the start of another kind of season. The dry weather combined with reduced traffic volumes make it the ideal time to tackle important roadwork projects. City crews combine several jobs at once - such as repaving, replacing sewer and water mains, and building pedestrian and cycling enhancements - to reduce costs and keep the disruption to a minimum. Watch for these projects in the coming weeks:

EAST 12TH AVENUE

Replacing a leaky water main, an aging 1912-built combined sewer, and street repaving will require a full closure between Nanaimo and Fraser starting in late May until early August.

MAIN STREET

Replacing aging water and sewer pipes and installing bus bulges to reduce transit delays and improve pedestrian crossing conditions from Cordova to Southeast Marine. Partial lane closures until December.

BURRARD STREET

Sewer separation, a new bike lane and repaving from Cornwall to Cordova will require partial lane closures from early June until mid-August.

BROADWAY

Constructing new sidewalks, cycling facilities, advanced traffic monitoring tools, and replacing water and sewer mains between Cambie and Nanaimo. Work starts in the fall with partial lane closures.

CLARK DRIVE

Installing a northbound left-turn bay at Clark and 6th to improve safety and transit access to SkyTrain. Two north and southbound lanes will be maintained at all times except during paving, which will be scheduled for an upcoming long weekend.

DOWNTOWN TWO-WAYS

Converting portions of Homer Street (south of Georgia), Cambie (Dunsmuir to Nelson) and Beatty (Pender to Nelson) from one-way to two-way streets on May 21, with partial lane closures.

KINGSWAY

Installing a landscaped median and improving transit and pedestrian facilities between Inverness and Perry. Work begins in the fall with partial lane closures.

WEST 4TH AVENUE

Street repaving and installation of bike lanes between Northwest Marine and Blanca. Partial lane closures begin in May.

HORNBY STREET

Replacing an 80-year-old water main, creating a bicycle lane, and widening the road from Pacific to Nelson. Construction is underway with some lane closures in effect.

For the latest roadwork updates visit roadahead.ca or call the Road Ahead info line at 604-873-7070. ■

VANCOUVER VOTES

Vancouver votes on November 19. The civic elections, held every three years, will elect Vancouver City Council, the Board of Parks and Recreation and the School Board. Voters will elect at large a Mayor, 10 Councillors, seven Park Commissioners, and nine School Trustees for a three-year term. You have the power to influence government and decisions that have a direct impact on your life. Vote!

NEW LOCK BOXES

BUILDING OWNERS, managers and occupants who use "Abloy Lock" lock boxes on their multi-family residences, highrises, and commercial or industrial buildings need to replace their current locks by December 31, 2006 if they wish to continue to provide access to emergency personnel to enter quickly and safely during a call.

After this date, Vancouver Fire and Rescue personnel will no longer carry the existing Abloy Lock box key, because this lock is no longer considered secure. All new lock box installations must be recessed or flush-mounted into the building, and use the Mul-T-Lock lock. If your building has an old cast aluminum lock box, it is NOT approved for re-keying with the new Mul-T-Lock system. These lock boxes are not used on single-family residences.

For more information: 604.654.0621

VANMAP

What kind of map can show you streets, property lines, aerial photos, zoning boundaries, schools, parks, libraries, bike routes and a lot more? The answer is VanMap, the City's web-based map system at vancouver.ca/vanmap

VanMap also links you to community web pages with details on services and events in Vancouver neighbourhoods. The features can be turned on or off at the click of a button, and you can view, save or print out the maps. VanMap is available 24/7 so get online and see what VanMap can show you.

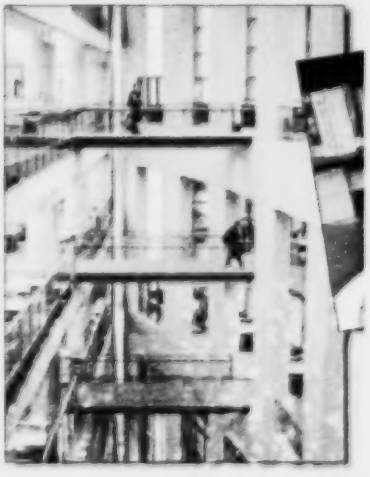
vancouver.ca/vanmap

LIBRARY SQUARE AT 10!

Happy 10th birthday, Library Square. On May 29, 1995, Vancouver Public Library's central library opened its doors at 350 West Georgia for its first full day of service. Since then, it's had more than 20 million visitors, with tens of millions of library items borrowed and reference questions answered. Today, Library Square is one of Vancouver's most vibrant and well-used civic places.

Library Square at 10 is a ten-day celebration from May 24 to June 2. Each day will feature a different theme with related programs. Highlights include: readings by Canada's beloved children's author Robert Munsch, Canada's first Poet Laureate George Bowering, Karen X. Tulchinsky, Vancouver's own Rafe Mair, Howard White, Pam Withers, and Sean Patrick O'Reilly of Arcana Studios. Other highlights will include special performances by artists and musicians, and appearances by Mayor Larry Campbell and Library Square's renowned architect Moshe Safdie.

For more information about *Library Square at 10* events, check with your local VPL branch or visit the website: vpl.ca



UPDATE ON OLYMPIC PREPARATIONS

IT DOESN'T SEEM that long ago since Vancouver was awarded the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, but we're now less than five years from the opening ceremonies. Vancouver was named host city in 2003, and since then preparations have been well underway.

The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, or VANOC, was formed to steer the planning, organizing, financing and staging of the Games. Last December, the City of Vancouver named Dave Rudberg, its former General Manager of Engineering, as General Manager for Olympic Operations. He will be responsible for coordinating the work of City departments in Olympic preparations.

A new Olympic emblem, which will be the symbol of the Games, was unveiled on April 23.

The 2010 Games include a commitment to support social inclusivity, economic opportunity, sport development and healthy lifestyles. A number of initiatives have moved forward to meet these goals.

VANOC and Bell Canada will invest $2 million into the Downtown Eastside for economic development such as business opportunities to fill vacant commercial spaces, and jobs for local residents. They'll also support efforts to ensure Vancouver's inner-city communities benefit from other opportunities related to the 2010 Games.

2010 LegaciesNow, the not-for-profit society responsible for making sure every region in BC benefits from the sports, recreation, volunteer, literacy, arts, and cultural legacies, has helped kick start several new programs. HostingBC supports organizations in staging international and national sports events. Since last fall, it has provided $115,000 in funding to host nine sporting events in Vancouver including: the Honda Tour of Champions - NorAm Snowboard Championships; the Artistic Gymnastics and Trampoline and Tumbling Canadian Championships; the Vancouver Women's Open (tennis); World Cup Fencing; and a bid to host the Wheelchair Basketball World Championships. Through its ArtsNow program, 28 Vancouver organizations have received more than $350,000 in funding for their work.

In November 2004, the City became the first municipality to join 2010 LegaciesNow's challenge, which sets a target of increasing the physical activity of citizens by 20 per cent by the start of the Games. The City and Park Board launched *Get Out!* an initiative to encourage youth to be active in arts, culture and sports. 2010 LegaciesNow also teamed with Bell, the Vancouver Agreement and Cypress Mountain to start up *Chill*, a snowboarding program for disadvantaged inner-city youth.

The planning for various venues is also on track. The Southeast False Creek Official Development Plan, which is the blueprint for the land that will house the Athletes' Village, was approved in February. After the Games, SEFC will be home to a sustainable mixed-use residential and commercial area.

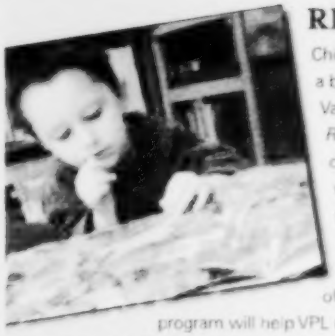
Currently, the Master Plan for Riley and Hillcrest Parks and Nat Bailey Stadium is being finalized, and it will determine the locations for the Olympic curling venue, and the legacy facilities, which include a new Riley Park Community Centre, an aquatic centre to replace Percy Norman Pool, and a new Vancouver Curling Club.

The Pacific Coliseum, Agrodome, and Rollerland buildings will be renovated for figure skating and short-track speed skating.

For businesses that want to be part of the estimated $4 billion in economic opportunities, the Province of BC has developed the 2010 Commerce Centre. This will be the one-stop portal for information on opportunities, vendor qualifications, sponsorship, merchandising and the use of logos. More exciting changes and developments are on the way on our road to 2010, so stay tuned for more news and follow the updates on **vancouver2010.com**.

For more information:

Vancouver 2010: vancouver2010.com
City of Vancouver: vancouver.ca/olympics
LegaciesNow: 2010LegaciesNow.com
Get Out!: www.heygetout.ca
2010 Commerce Centre: 2010commercecentre.com



READY TO READ

Children's literacy in Vancouver received a boost after City Council approved the Vancouver Public Library's new *Ready to Read* program. Ready to Read introduces children from birth to five years old to vocabulary, sounds and songs, to help them become familiar with language in their earliest years. These are the most critical years for the development of language and learning skills. This new program will help VPL reach more children than ever before, including children from low-income families, and children of immigrants for whom English is a second language.

Ready to Read's long term focus is community development and capacity-building to break down barriers that prevent some parents in Vancouver from gaining access to early childhood learning.

INDOOR WATER SAVER KITS

Help prevent water shortages, and save money on your water heating bills. Get the Indoor Water Saver Kit. It's available for the special price of $12 (retail value is $30) for City of Vancouver residents only, and provides a few ways you can help save water in your home.

Each kit contains: one adjustable massage spray showerhead; one dual-setting touch flow kitchen aerator; two faucet sink aerators; two toilet tank bags; two packages of leak detection dye tablets; and one roll of Teflon tape.

The kit could help you use 15 to 20 per cent less water indoors, and 10 to 15 per cent less energy for heating water.

Pick one up at: City Hall, Client Service Centre, Main Floor. Limit two per household. Proof of residency required.

Rosemary Brown Park, named for the former MLA, is Kitsilano's newest green space

NEW PARKS

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is officially opening two new city green spaces in June.

Sahalli Park – This small park at 8th and Fraser is named for a Chinook jargon word meaning "high place". In its 0.6 hectare space, it includes pathways, a picnic site, playground, viewing mound, lawns, a thriving community garden and a variety of trees and shrubs.

Rosemary Brown Park – This elegant park at Redbud and Vine Street in Kitsilano is named for Rosemary Brown who served as an MLA from 1972 to 1986, and was the first black woman elected to a Canadian legislature. The 0.12 hectare green space includes rose gardens, flower beds, shrubs, trees and benches. The site was once the location of the Brewmaster's house at one of Vancouver's first beer companies. ■

GREEN STREET

A section of Crown Street in Southlands is part park, part street, and all green. It's Vancouver's first environmentally sustainable street. It uses less than half the asphalt of a normal road and is edged by structural grass and concrete. Crown Street was chosen as a pilot project because it drains into two of Vancouver's remaining salmon-bearing creeks. The new design mimics what the natural conditions were and helps restore the creek and nurture the salmon habitat.

When a street is paved it does not naturally absorb rainwater, and polluted run-off gets into our water. The structural grass has plastic matting that can support vehicles while allowing grass growth on the surface. Storm run-off is carried away by vegetated swales, which are shallow ditches. The vegetation naturally filters contaminants from the water and allows more water to infiltrate the ground. The design also beautifies the street, calms traffic and increases green space. The project will be monitored over a five-year period and if successful, could become an option available to neighbourhoods all over the city. ■

Crown Street mimics natural conditions and helps restore the nearby creek

CONTACT US

Main Switchboard: 604.873.7011
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
Website: vancouver.ca

VANCOUVER GUIDE TO MUNICIPAL SERVICES
Pick up a copy of the updated Guide to Municipal Services. This compact, colourful brochure gives a rundown of everyday City services, contact numbers, website addresses, and a map showing the libraries, community centres, ice rinks and pools near you.

TELEPHONE REFERENCE GUIDE
This handy guide lists phone numbers for various City departments and service groups, as well as other agencies that provide public services.

Get these guides at a local library, community centre or City Hall.

Online phone directory: vancouver.ca/intouch

CLEAN UP GRAFFITI

Graffiti is a constant source of frustration to home and business owners. Because graffiti breeds more graffiti, the City is trying to get it cleaned up soon after it appears.

A bylaw requires property owners to have graffiti removed within 30 days after being served a notice.

The City has programs available to help you prevent and wipe out graffiti, including a free paint program, community paint outs and a directory of commercial graffiti removers. Graffiti that remains after being reported will be removed and a bill will be sent to the property owner.

The City also connects artists with building owners who want public murals on walls and other surfaces. Murals are very effective at deterring graffiti.

Learn more: 604.873.7161 or vancouver.ca/graffiti

HIT THE ROAD

Hit the road with a new Vancouver Bicycle Route Map. The City has produced an updated detailed map showing the bicycle routes in the city.

It folds into a convenient business-card size, so it's perfect for taking with you. Printed copies are available through the information desk at City Hall, the Bicycle Hotline at 604.871.6070, or e-mail at cycling@vancouver.ca

Maps are also available at Vancouver libraries, community centres and some bicycle stores.

Download it online at vancouver.ca/cycling

MULTILINGUAL PHONE LINES

For more information about the City in these languages:

資料查詢 604.871.6868
ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲਵੋ 604.871.6565
Hoi chi tiet 604.871.6969
Obtenga Informacion 604.871.6961

CITYSPEAK is published twice a year (spring and fall) by the City's Communications Division (604.873.7336) to give Vancouver residents an update on the many programs and services provided by the City. Items in CITYSPEAK (date) may be reprinted. Articles, comments and suggestions are welcome.

City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
www.vancouver.ca